[Mr. K. M. Kesavan]

is made from the Council there is the possibility of again electing members from the same community. To say that the members of one community elected by one House should not be elected by the other House, will be denying a privilege to this House. So, I think the best method to be resorted to is to retain the composition of the committee as such, and to request Government to nominate the members from the two Houses of the Legislature. That will be the most workable and the best means of retaining the popular nature of the committee also.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: I also think that nomination is better than election, though I do not agree with the reasons advanced by the honourable member who spoke just before me. I do not think there is any difficulty in coming to any agreement as to the communal representation in the Committee. My reason for suggesting nomination is that because there is already a ratable ratio fixed for the several communities, it is better to leave the discretion to Government to choose the best members from each community to the Advisory Committee.

The motion was put and the proposition that the composition of the Committee should be by nomination was declared carried.

MOTION RE: LICENSING OF DOCUMENT-WRITERS.

Mr. K. Madhava Kurup: Sir, I move that the question of introducing a scheme for the licensing of document-writers be taken into consideration. There is at present no control by anybody over document-writers and the mistakes they commit are very great. Much of the litigation is due to the mistakes committed by them. Government are alive to the mischief they do. They also consider it desirable to institute an examination of competency. Licenses are issued in some provinces in British India.

President: I may say that if this House is to accept the spirit of the resolution, the idea of the Government is to constitute a Committee for the purpose of working out the details of the scheme, such as the qualifications to be fixed for document writers, penalties to be levied in case of mischief and all that. Now the resolution is open to discussion.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Much of the present litigation is due to want of knowledge on the part of document-writers. Laymen come to the field and calling themselves document writers do much mischief. During the course of trial of parties when cases come to the court, it is very often revealed that it is the document

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writers that are the source of these troubles. In our State there is no dearth of qualified men who have acquired sufficient knowledge for the profession. Document writing requires a good deal of knowledge of men and materials. If we entrust the work to people who do not know law and rules relating to the subject, it will be a source of danger to the society. I am of opinion that document writers must have good knowledge of law and things so that they may be a source of health to the country. Otherwise they will be a source of much trouble to the country. It is a good idea to constitute a Committee for the purpose. I whole-heartedly support the motion.

Mr. James Fletcher : Sir, I support the motion not on the grounds advanced by my friend namely, qualification. We want men of good character as document writers. At present any person with a mischievous tendency can draft documents which may bring about much trouble later. Now all sorts of people resort to this work. Those who have no other work resort to this work. We want men of character, men who could be relied upon, men who would not cheat the public and men who would conduct their business properly;only such people should be given license. Often we hear in courts, people giving statements that they want to execute lease deed but sale deed was registered. Such a complaint would not have arisen if the document writers were men of good character. Therefore, for that reason I support the motion that license should be introduced among document-writers.

Mr. Kochikkal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : In supporting this motion I suggest that the bulk or a good many number of the three thousand lawyers in Travancore who, I do not want to say, are unemployed have abundant leisure at their disposal and that may be utilised for this purpose. This is a matter, which the Committee, when they frame the rules may consider. There is no dearth of qualified lawyers, Second Grade Pleaders and Advocates even in mofussil places who may be entrusted with this work. This is one way of solving the problem of over abundant time at the disposal of the lawyers and certainly it will bring up the tone of the profession.

I do not believe in the theory of my friend Mr. Fletcher regarding character. As far as character is concerned, there has been absolutely no metre found out yet by the genius of man by which men of bad character could be eliminated from any profession or calling.

President : I consider that it is a wholesome move. In my own experience as a lawyer I know of catastrophic results of defective conveyancing not only on the part of document-writers but

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[President]

also on the part of presumably qualified lawyers. The Committee that is proposed to be constituted will as well take into consideration the suggestions put forward by Mr. Tampi. Let us hope that as many lawyers as are competent will come to the field. There may be only few who have acquired skill in that business. To find out that, it may be necessary to institute some kind of test or examination. It may also solve the problem as Mr. Tampi pointed out with which some of the younger lawyers are faced.

The question is whether the House accepts the principle of issuing licenses to document writers.

The motion was put and carried *nem con.*

President: I hope this House, in consultation with the sister House, will evolve some kind of scheme with regard to the paddy question, which will be of some assistance to the Government.

The House will now adjourn and meet again to-morrow at 11 A. M.

The House adjourned at 1.10 P. M.

K. P. SUBRAMONIA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council.

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